



A
COLLECTION
OF
TRACTS, &c.



COLLECTION
OF
T. R. A. R. S.
BY
J. W. R. S.

A
COLLECTION
OF
TRACTS,

Relating to the
CRIMES, EXAMINATION, TRIAL,
SENTENCE, and EXECUTION,

OF
Susannah Lott and Benjamin Buſs,

FOR
Poisoning Mr. LOTT,

LATE
Of *Hythe*, in the County of *Kent*.



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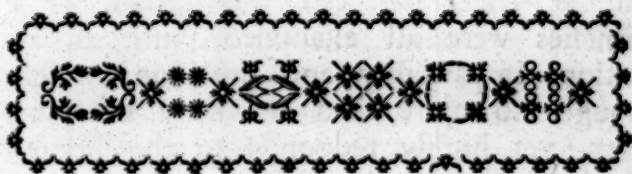
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At the Affizes at Maidstone, on
Wednesday, March 9, 1769,
between seven and eight in the
evening, the bill of indictment
against BENJAMIN BUSS and SU-
SANNAH LOTT, for Petty Treason, and
Murder of JOHN LOTT, of Hythe, in Kent,
husband of the said SUSANNAH LOTT, was
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considered by the Grand Jury; after a deliberation, which lasted an hour and an half at least, the bill was found. The witnesses were all examined, with an attention, impartiality and precision, which, though no more than the duty of every Jury, yet highly redounds to the honour of the collective body in general, and of every individual member in particular.

At seven on Thursday morning the prisoners were brought to the bar, and the woman (on account of her situation) was allowed to sit. After the indictment was read, it was moved in court, that the Trial might be deferred, as an affidavit had been received, signifying, that Mr. Gipp's, surgeon, of Hythe, was very ill, and unable to appear; this evidence was esteemed very material, as it tended to prove, whether or no Benjamin Busf was the man who bought a certain quantity of corrosive sublimate of mercury at Mr. Gipps's shop.

His Lordship approved the motion, and the Trial was accordingly put off.

Benjamin Busf begg'd leave to speak, and desired his trial immediately, declaring

ing that he had been at great charges, and suffered much in his health by sickness contracted in the goal.

The Judge told him, that the adjournment of the trial was greatly in his favour, and was surpris'd that he should now be against it, as his council had approv'd the motion with his (the prisoner's) consent; to which Buſs answer'd by repeating his request, which his Lordship assured him could not be granted; and the trial was postponed accordingly.

His Lordship address'd Mrs. Lott, and inform'd her, that the adjournment was particularly serviceable to her, both on account of her situation, and also, that as she was charg'd with a most heinous and tremendous offence, she would obtain time seriously to consider her true state, to prepare for the consequences, and to make her peace with GOD.

His Lordship then ordered them to the place from whence they came, and proceeded to another cause.



An Account of the Examination, and Trial, of Benjamin Buss and Susannah Lott, which again came on, July 19, 1769; with their Behaviour in Court, and at the Place of Execution, &c.

THE evidence of the witnesses on the crown side, entirely corresponded with the confession which Mrs. Lott had signed before Mr. Deedes, at Hythe. The proofs, though merely circumstantial, were esteemed conclusive, as the Jury, without any hesitation, declared the prisoners guilty.

After the witnesses were examined by the council for the crown, and ingenuously cross examined by the council for the prisoners, the Judge addressed himself to Buss, and asked him what he had to say in his defence; Buss answered that he was entirely innocent of the whole, knew nothing of it, and declared that he was not near the house: now, he was proved by two witnesses to have lain in the house the night of the same day on which Mr. Lott died early in the morning;

so that in all probability, this declaration did not operate in the breast of the Jury greatly to his advantage. His council also having made an apology for introducing affairs of a private nature, which might affect persons entirely free from suspicion of any criminal proceedings, called for a woman to bear testimony, that there had been a contract of marriage between Busb and herself; intending thereby to render dubious the supposed intimacy between the two prisoners. But the deposition of this evidence had an effect quite opposite to that designed by the council; for it tended still farther to impeach the integrity of the unhappy prisoner. The countenance of Busb exhibited a strong variety of contending passions; and if there was any appearance of indifference, it was by no means continual; his frequent change of posture, lifting up his eyes, and eagerly listening to the depositions of the evidence, amply declaring him most nearly interested in the proceedings.

Mrs. Lott's countenance was humble and dejected, her eyes seem'd swell'd with constant crying, and appeared as if sleep had been an entire stranger to them for some nights. Her deportment was the same as when she appeared at the bar the preceding assizes;

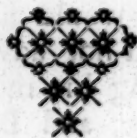
assizes ; but her eyes look'd more natural and less inflam'd then than now ; probably she might then have had some notice of an intention to defer the trial ; and the information from the Judge at that time, that it was a circumstance in her favour might have drawn a beam of hope on her face, which certainly had by no means the marks or expressions of a flagitious mind. Her child's being brought to her in court, was a moving object ; but her behaviour and lamentations over the poor babe, after sentence had been pass'd on her, would have drawn tears from a statesman.

On Friday, about twenty minutes before twelve o' clock at noon, the unhappy prisoners were taken from the goal, in order to be executed pursuant to their sentence. Buſs, dressed in black, was carried in a waggon drawn by four horses, and attended by two or three sheriff's officers.---Mrs. Lott, dressed in a suit of mourning she had for her husband, immediately followed, on an hurdle drawn by four horses. In this manner they proceeded till they came to the place of execution, when Buſs, after joining in prayer with the clergyman, was hanged on a gallows about one hundred yards from the place where Mrs. Lott was to be executed.

When

When he had hanged about fifteen minutes, the officers thus proceeded to execute sentence on Mrs. Lot :

A post, about seven feet high, was fix'd in the ground ; it had a peg near the top, to which Mrs. Lott, standing on a stool, was fastened by the neck, when the stool being taken away, she hung about a quarter of an hour till she was quite dead : a chain was then turn'd round her body, and properly fasten'd by staples to the post, when a large quantity of faggots being plac'd round her, and set on fire, the body was consum'd to ashes. She was very sensible of her crime, and died entirely penitent. The man did not betray any remarkable concern for his approaching end. It is computed there were about five thousand persons attending the execution.



Particulars

*Particulars relative to the Poisoning of Mr.
Lott, with Observations, &c.*

MR S. LOTT, the unhappy criminal, was servant to the deceased Mr. Lott, who was a Grazier and Butcher at Hythe. He became extremely fond of her, and often pressed her to marry him; she at last consented. After Mr. Lott had gained her consent, that it might not be said he married his maid servant, he dismissed her from his service, and sent her to one of her relations in the country, where she contracted an acquaintance with Busb. If so, Busb was not acquainted with her till after her promise; but unhappily, time enough to contrive this horrid scheme. It was supposed she never would have married Mr. Lott, if Busb had not advised her to it, in hopes of fingering his money. However, married they were, and Busb was invited by Mr. Lott to the wedding. Busb said he was ill, and laid on a bed; and Mrs. Lott, though a bride, went up and talked to him at the bed-side; and this was a strong presumption,

sumption, of an improper connection between them.

Buss was supposed by the court, to have been the person, who bought two ounces of Corrosive Sublimate at Mr. Gibbs's shop, on the morning of that Wednesday on which the deceased and the two criminals stopped at Burmarsh; the person who bought the Sublimate asked, if there was sufficient to poison a man. He also objected to the writing the word Poison on the parcels. Within a day or two after their marriage, the deceased, with Mrs. Lott and Buss went to Burmarsh on horseback; Mr. Lott dismounted to mend a bridle, went into the public house, and at their desire, ordered some milk bum-bo; which was considered as a convenient vehicle to administer the poison in. Buss in his absence, according to Mrs. Lott's confession and the concurrence of circumstances, was supposed to have conveyed the poison into the mug. Buss and Mrs. Lott sat on horseback, and each of them were seen to drink, and sent or gave the mug to Mr. Lott; he drank, and said it was bitter and hot, and had a very bad taste. The good woman of the house was quite concerned to think, that Mr. Lott, to whom she had always given satisfaction, should be displeased,

as she was sure her ingredients were good; after they were gone she tasted of what remained in the pot; she said it tasted oddly, but could not be particular as to the kind of taste, for she did not swallow any: She called her daughter-in-law, who swallowed a tea-spoonful of it, soon after which she was sick, and vomited; she threw it away, and said there was a sediment at the bottom like paint. On Mr. Lott's finding fault with the liquor, Mrs. Lott said the marsh water is not so good as ours, therefore it is no wonder you should dislike the liquor; her making any excuse, and more especially one so frivolous, seemed suspicious. Mr. Lott was taken ill on his journey to Bonington, was sick and vomited; they all drank tea together at this place, where they parted. Mr. Lott's drinking tea then, was judged to have been of service, either to have encouraged his casting, or to have diminished the violence of the action of the sublimate, on his stomach and bowels: He would certainly have recovered from the first dose, as he vomited so soon after it; and was pretty well next day: Soon after he was ill again; he kept about house, but was ill, and complained of his stomach and bowels; he soon had a spitting, attended with a soreness of his mouth and gums. During the progress

gress of his disorder he had a bloody salivation. His recovering a little by the application of remedies, after which his sudden and unaccountable relapse, raised a strong suspicion, that he had frequent doses of this most inveterate drug, in a liquid, which might have been given to Mrs. Lott in a phial, which Buss gave her; or she might have dissolved some Sublimate in some convenient liquor, giving it him in most things he took, as she, during his illness, gave him almost every thing he drank; he died in nine or ten days from the giving him the first dose at Burmash.

Mrs. Lott's behaviour at Canterbury was approved of; and at Maidstone, during her confinement, which was upwards of four months, she behaved in a manner becoming her unhappy situation. She confessed, that she was very unwilling to marry Mr. Lott, till she was persuaded by Buss; soon after she had been prevailed upon to marry Lott, he opened the dreadful project; which at first she rejected with horror, but on his often entreating her she consented; and at Burmash, with HER knowledge, Buss gave him the first dose, the effects of which were so violent to Mr. Lott, as to alarm her much. But her instigator came afterwards to her house,

and gave her a phial. [In her confession at Hythe, she takes notice of this; the necessary was searched, and a phial found with the cork out; so that the first contents of the phial could not be discovered; What the phial contained might have been used, before it was thrown away.] Buſs ſtill inſiſted on her repeating the doſe, telling her it would never be diſcovered; ſo ſhe repeated the doſe two or three times. She expreſſed her ſorrow that ſhe did not plead guilty at her trial, and ſaid, if ſhe had been acquitted, ſhe ſhould have never known peace. With regard to her child, ſhe ſolemnly declared it to be Mr. Lott's; and that Buſs had never any criminal correſpondence with her, except that moſt abominable one of plotting her husband's death.

The frequent viſits of Buſs to Mrs. Lott, at Hythe during Mr. Lott's illneſs, and after his death, were eſteemed preſumptive of an improper correſpondence between them. Buſs ſoon after his return to Rolverden, in converſation with an acquaintance, offered a wager of ten pounds to one, that Mr. Lott did not live a week: His foretelling the death of a perſon, who was juſt married, at which time he was apparently in good health, was very ſuſpicious: it was imagined, that his
knowledge

knowledge of what had been done at Burmah, and what was to be done in his absence by the wife at Hythe, gave him authority to wager on his death. The acquaintance, there mentioned, deposed to this circumstance in court.

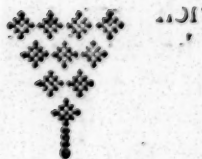
After Mr. Lott's death, Buſs, in the house of the deceased, behaved very roughly to the executors, telling them, that they exceeded their authority in the disposal of Mr. Lott's effects, and that he would see the widow righted.

On his being conveyed to Maidstone Goal, he endeavoured to make his escape, which endeavour in a felon, always makes greatly against him.

The demeanor of Buſs, during his confinement, which was eleven months, was very spirited; he wondered that Mrs. Lott should accuse him, and denied that he had any hand in it. But happening to be seized with the goal fever, he said he believed he was going to be light-headed, and desired a Parson might come to him, fearing he should burn in Hell; he then confessed, that he had fetched the poison; and attempted to say the Lord's Prayer; but when he recovered

ed from his illness, he retracted every thing he had said. After sentence, the Minister advised him to confess the fact : he said, he had made his confession to God, and thought his confession to man would avail nothing; but that he would not die with a lie in his mouth.

When he came to the final spot, after the Minister had done praying with him, standing on the board with the halter round his neck, he addressed the people, and prayed to God to bless them all : Being asked if he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, he answered, I do, I do, and was turned off directly.

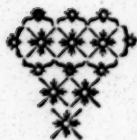




*The following is a Prayer, which
was wrote by his own Request,
and was often repeated by him
before his Death.*

OH! blessed and Almighty GOD, cast down an eye of pity and compassion on an unhappy and unworthy object, now doom'd in a few hours to appear before thy tremendous throne, to answer for my actions during this my temporal state of probation. Therefore Lord Almighty, permit thy Holy Spirit (thro' the merits and sufferings of thy Blessed Son, my Redeemer) to afford a wretched and distressed Being, the work of thy Divine Hands, at present overwhelmed with guilt, sorrow, shame, and remorse, the comfortable hope of Mercy. I confess my crimes, O Lord, and am sorry for my past offences; in particular, for that horrid deed for which I am now going to suffer. Oh!
Blessed

Blessed God pardon my past vile actions ;
 Oh ! Blessed Saviour, reclaim the price of thy
 own most precious blood ; and Oh ! Holy
 Spirit, inspire me with sentiments conformable
 to my present wretched situation. Oh ! Blef-
 sed Lord now stretch forth thy hand of mer-
 cy, or my unhappy soul is lost to all eternity.
 Favour my petition O Lord, and receive that
 spirit I humbly resign to thy Almighty
 will.



F I N I S.